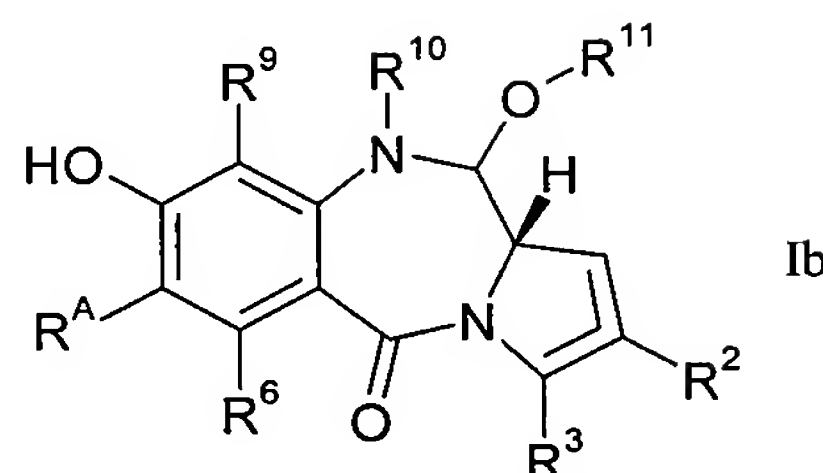
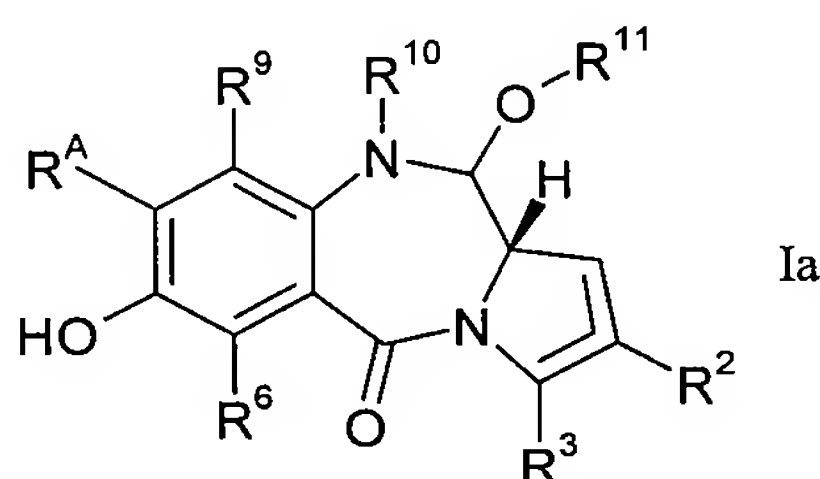


### Amendments to the Claims:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib**:



and salts, solvates, and chemically protected forms thereof, wherein:

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from -H, =O, =CH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO<sub>2</sub>-R, CO<sub>2</sub>R and COR;

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn and halo;

where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-20</sub> heterocyclyl and C<sub>5-20</sub> aryl groups;

R<sup>A</sup> is selected from H, R, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn and halo;

R<sup>10</sup> is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; and

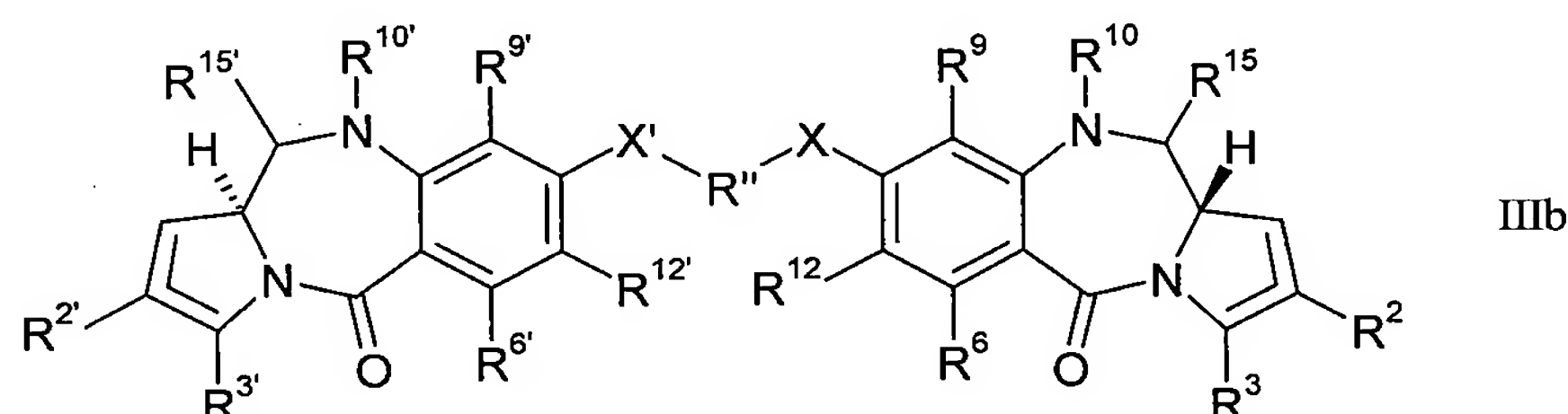
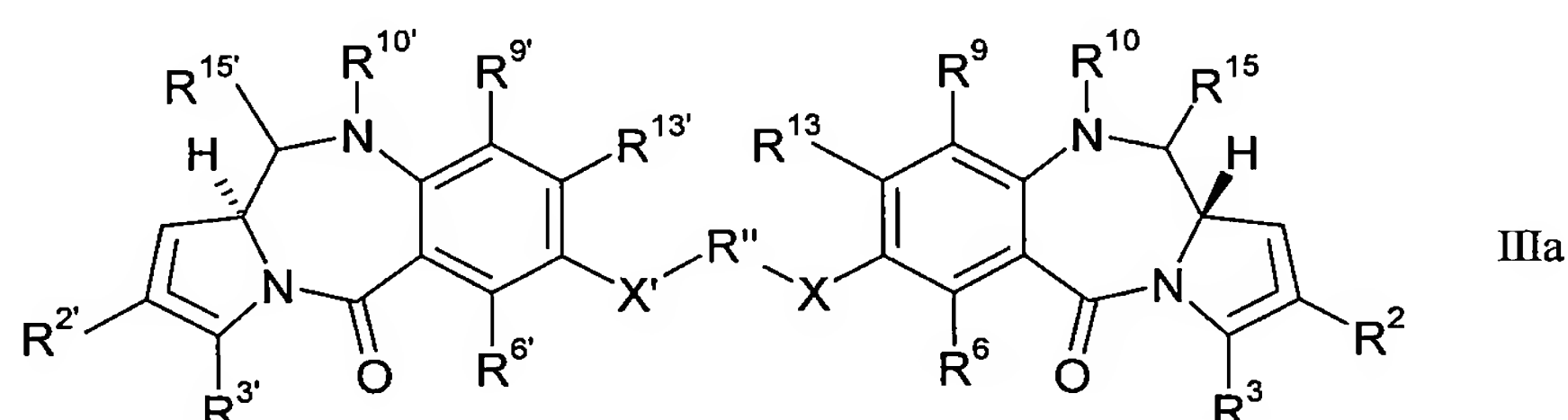
R<sup>11</sup> is an oxygen protecting group.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>A</sup> is independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR' and halo.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, wherein R<sup>11</sup> is THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein R<sup>10</sup> is BOC or Troc.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein  $R^9$  is H.
6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein  $R^2$  is R.
7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein  $R^6$  is selected from H, OH, OR, SH,  $NH_2$ , nitro and halo.
8. (Original) A compound of formula **IIIa** or **IIIb**:



and salts and thereof, wherein:

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from  $-H$ ,  $=O$ ,  $=CH_2$ ,  $-CN$ ,  $-R$ , OR, halo,  $=CH-R$ ,  $O-SO_2-R$ ,  $CO_2R$  and COR;

$R^6$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR,  $NH_2$ , NHR,  $NRR'$ , nitro,  $Me_3Sn$  and halo;

where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-20}$  heterocyclyl and  $C_{5-20}$  aryl groups;

$R^{10}$  is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group and  $R^{15}$  is either  $O-R^{11}$ , wherein  $R^{11}$  is an oxygen protecting group, or OH, or  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{15}$  together form a double bond between N10 and C11; and

where R" is a C<sub>3-12</sub> alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms, e.g. O, S, NH, and/or aromatic rings, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH; and

R<sup>2'</sup>, R<sup>3'</sup>, R<sup>6'</sup>, R<sup>9'</sup>, R<sup>10'</sup>, R<sup>12'</sup>, R<sup>13'</sup> and R<sup>15'</sup> are all independently selected from the same lists as previously defined for R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> respectively.

9. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein the dimers are linked at the C8 position.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 8, wherein the dimers are linked at the C7 position.

11. (Original) A compound according to either claim 9 or claim 10, wherein -X'-R"-X- of formula **IIIa** or **IIIb** is -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-, where n is 3 to 12.

12. (Original) A compound according to claim 11, wherein n is 8 to 12.

13. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein n is 8 to 11.

14. (Original) A compound according to claim 13, wherein n is 8 to 10.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 14, wherein n is 8 or 9.

16. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 15~~, wherein R<sup>15</sup> is O-R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> is THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 16~~, wherein R<sup>10</sup> is BOC or Troc.

18. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 15~~, wherein R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> together form a double bond between N10 and C11.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 18~~, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is H.

20. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 19~~, wherein  $R^2$  is R.

21. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 20~~, wherein  $R^6$  is selected from H, OH, OR, SH,  $NH_2$ , nitro and halo.

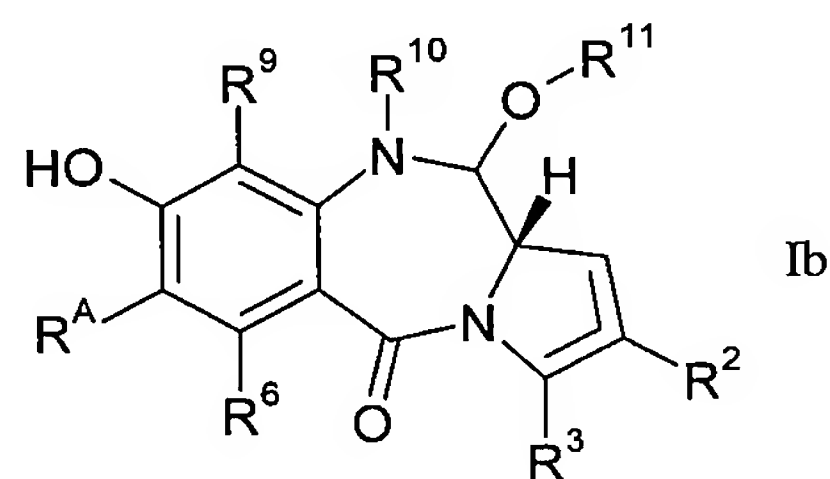
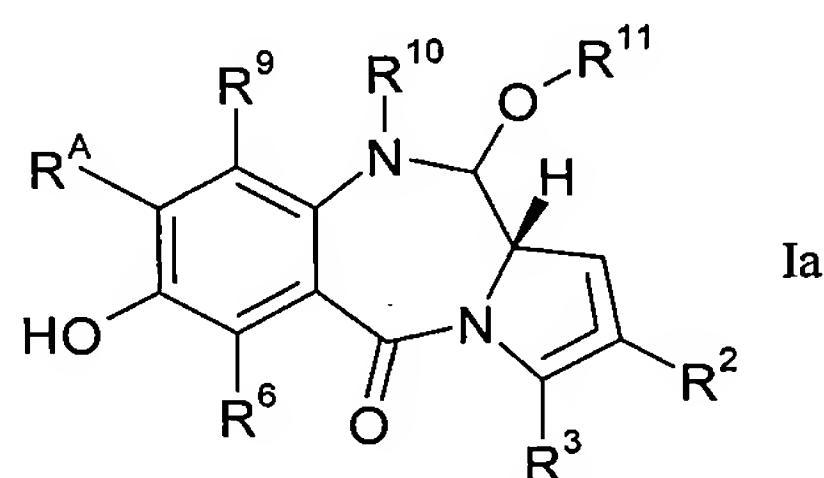
22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of ~~any one of claims 8 to 21~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

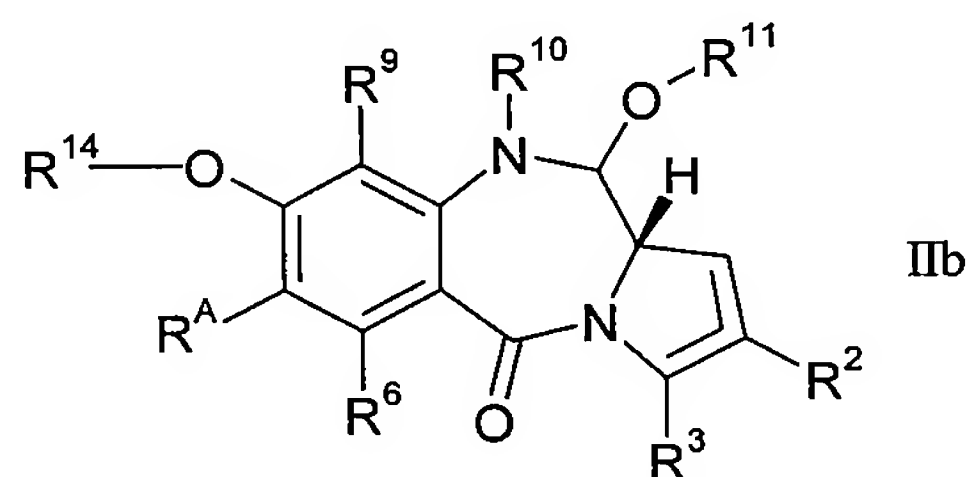
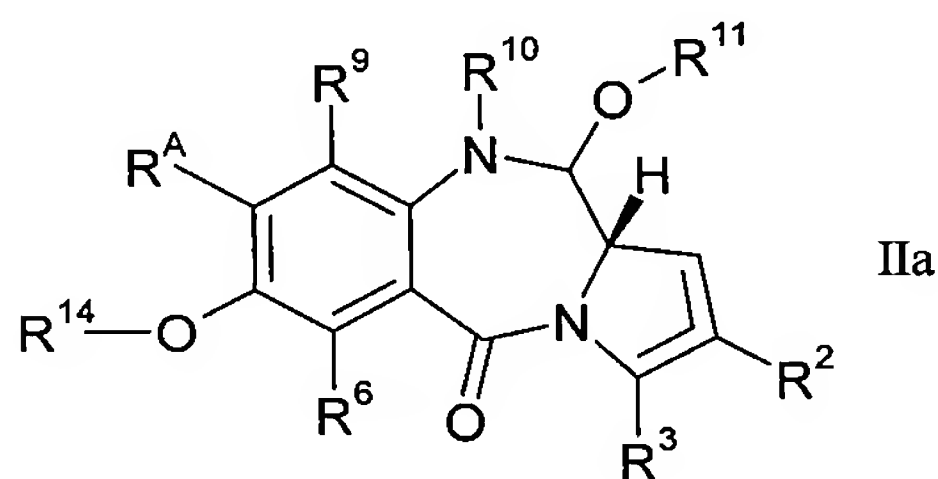
24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of ~~any one of claims 8 to 21~~.

26. (Original) A method of synthesising a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib**:



from a compound of formula **IIa** or **IIb** respectively:



wherein:

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from  $-H$ ,  $=O$ ,  $=CH_2$ ,  $-CN$ ,  $-R$ ,  $OR$ , halo,  $=CH-R$ ,  $O-SO_2-R$ ,  $CO_2R$  and  $COR$ ;

$R^6$  and  $R^9$  are independently selected from  $H$ ,  $R$ ,  $OH$ ,  $OR$ ,  $SH$ ,  $SR$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR$ ,  $NRR'$ , nitro,  $Me_3Sn$  and halo;

where  $R$  and  $R'$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-20}$  heterocyclyl and  $C_{5-20}$  aryl groups;

$R^A$  is selected from  $H$ ,  $R$ ,  $OR$ ,  $SH$ ,  $SR$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR$ ,  $NRR'$ , nitro,  $Me_3Sn$  and halo;

$R^{10}$  is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group;

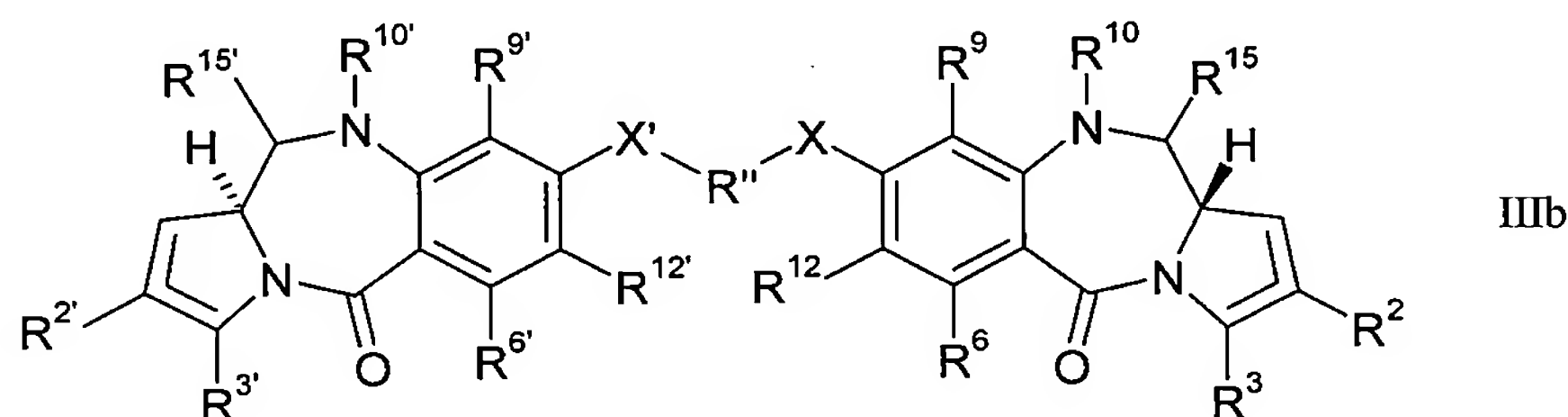
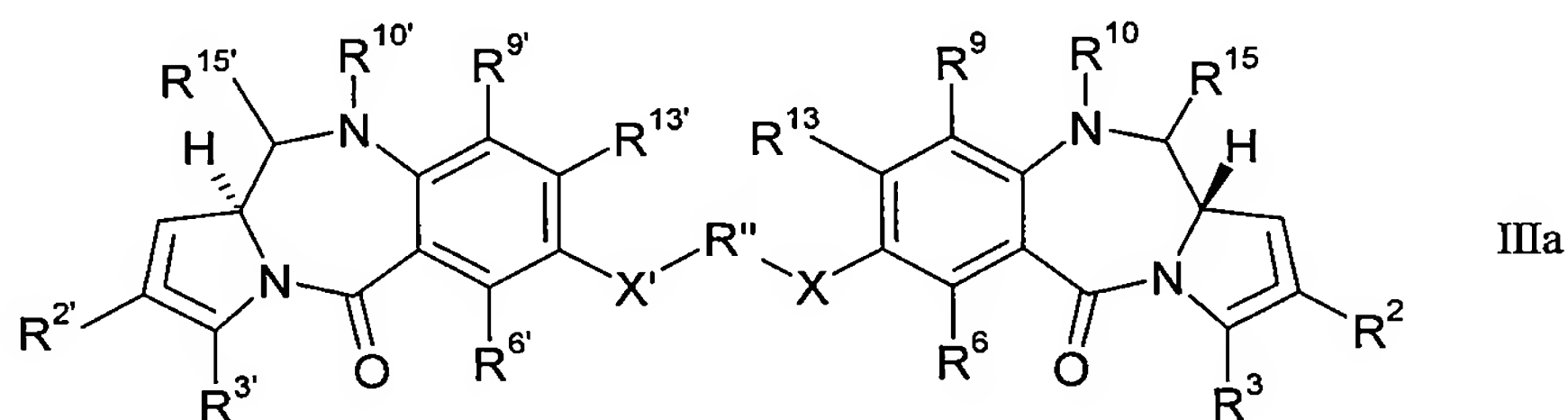
$R^{11}$  is an oxygen protecting group; and

$R^{14}$  is an oxygen protecting group orthogonal to  $R^{11}$ .

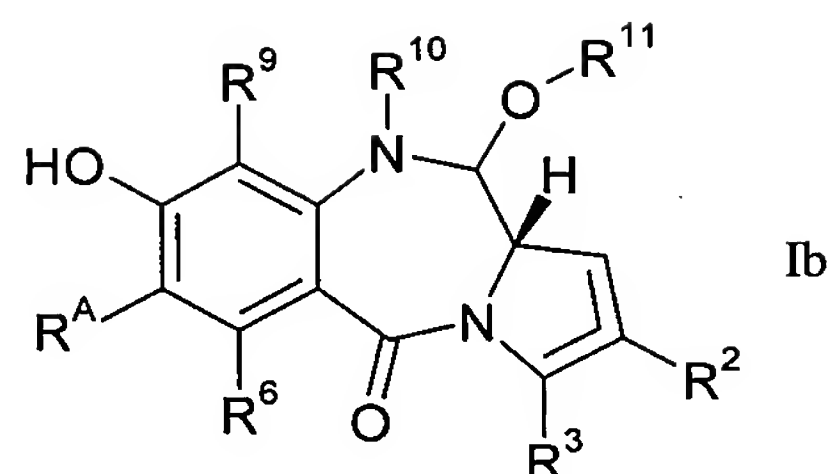
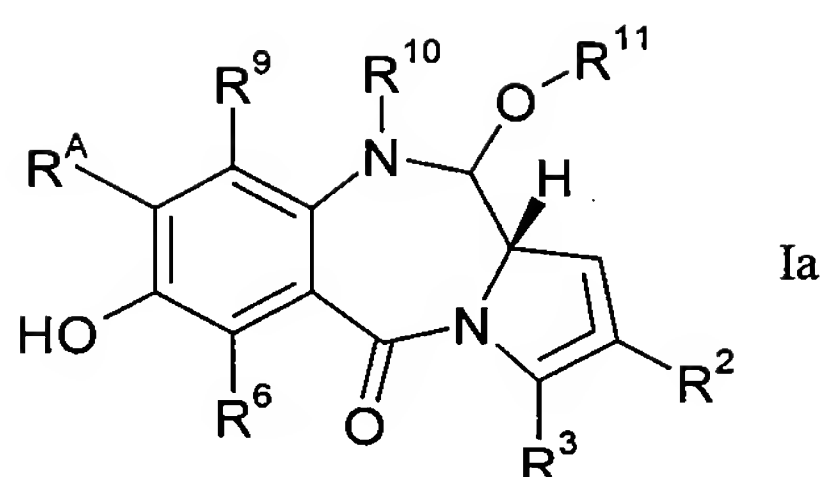
27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein  $R^{14}$  is benzyl ether and  $R^A$  is OMe or H.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~either claim 26 or claim 27~~, wherein  $R^{11}$  is THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.

29. (Original) A method of synthesising a compound of formula **IIIa** or **IIIb**:



or a solvate thereof, from a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** respectively:



wherein:

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from  $-H$ ,  $=O$ ,  $=CH_2$ ,  $-CN$ ,  $-R$ ,  $OR$ , halo,  $=CH-R$ ,  $O-SO_2-R$ ,  $CO_2R$  and  $COR$ ;

$R^6$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  are independently selected from  $H$ ,  $R$ ,  $OH$ ,  $OR$ ,  $SH$ ,  $SR$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR$ ,  $NRR'$ , nitro,  $Me_3Sn$  and halo; where  $R$  and  $R'$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{3-20}$  heterocyclyl and  $C_{5-20}$  aryl groups;

$R^A$  is selected from  $H$ ,  $R$ ,  $OR$ ,  $SH$ ,  $SR$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHR$ ,  $NRR'$ , nitro,  $Me_3Sn$  and halo;

$R^{10}$  is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group and  $R^{15}$  is either  $O-R^{11}$ , wherein  $R^{11}$  is an oxygen protecting group, or  $OH$ , or  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{15}$  together form a double bond between  $N^{10}$  and  $C^{11}$ ; and

where  $R''$  is a  $C_{3-12}$  alkylene group, and each  $X$  is independently selected from  $O$ ,  $S$ , or  $NH$ ; and  $R^{2'}$ ,  $R^{3'}$ ,  $R^{6'}$ ,  $R^{9'}$ ,  $R^{10'}$ ,  $R^{12'}$ ,  $R^{13'}$  and  $R^{15'}$  are all independently selected from the same lists as previously defined for  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{15}$  respectively.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, comprising the step of either:

- (a) reacting a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** with a compound having the formula  $Y-R''-Y'$  to yield a compound of formula **IIIa** or **IIIb**; or
- (b) (i) reacting a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** with a compound having the formula  $Y-R''-YProt$ , and
  - (ii) converting  $YProt$  in the reaction product from (i) to  $Y'$ , and
  - (iii) reacting the product from (ii) with a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** to yield a compound of formula **IIIa** or **IIIb**;

wherein:

$Y$ ,  $Y'$  are independently selected from  $OH$ ,  $I$ ,  $Br$ ,  $Cl$ , mesylate or tosylate;

$YProt$  is a precursor to  $Y'$  or a chemically protected form of  $Y'$  having a protecting group that is orthogonal to  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$ .

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein Y and Y' are I.
32. (Original) A method according to claim 30, wherein Y is OH and YProt is O-benzyl.